[4th September 1928

A.—(*a*) The Fisheries Committee was constituted towards the end of May 1928 and it held its first meeting to settle the preliminaries and draft the questionnaire on 4th June 1928. The questionnaire was issued to the newspapers for publication on 22nd June 1928. Copies were sent later to certain gentlemen. The Committee concluded its sittings on the 27th July. Gentlemen interested in the subject could have sent their replies at any time before the 27th July. Certain gentlemen whom the Committee proposed to examine as witnesses were requested to send in their answers as early as possible.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) No answer was given because none was required.

(*d*) The time at the disposal of the Committee before the preparation of the budget for the next financial year was short and the Chairman of the Committee had to absent from India from early August to end of October.

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" Why is it there was so much hurry in issuing the questionnaire and requiring the Committee to submit its report within so short a time ? "

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—" The answer has already been given."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" When the financial budget is prepared in the month of October or November, why was the opinion required to be submitted by the end of this month ? "

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—" They want time to consider the report."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" Has the report been submitted now ? "

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—" Not yet."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" When is the Chairman expected back ? "

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—" In October or November."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" Then will there be time enough to consider the report ? "

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—" We hope so."

Recommendations of the Fisheries Committee.

* 73 *Q.*—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased

(i) to lay before the House the report and recommendations of the Fisheries Committee, the summary of the written and oral evidence taken by them and the orders of the Government thereon ; and

(ii) to state whether Government have decided to transfer any of the functions of the Fisheries Department to the Salt and other departments ?

A.—(i) The request will be considered after the Committee's report is received.

(ii) No.